Internal Form for Oral History File

This file contains the oral history of: Jesse L. Garcia

Recorded on: November 11, 2025

Recorded by: Julissa Gomez Ruvalcaba

Recorded in (location): California State Railroad Museum, Big 4 Conference Room

For the Purpose of: Recording the history of families who worked in the Southern Pacific Railroad company and exploring the lives of their children.

Oral History Description

Narrator's Age: XX

Narrator City/State: Sacramento, California

Brief Summary: In this interview, Jesse L. Garcia, a son of a former Southern Pacific Union foreman, speaks about how his father Jesus Garcia started working in the railroad and the jobs he had prior to being a foreman; Jesus Garcia sponsoring friends and relatives to work at the railroad company; living in box cars starting at an early age and moving from box car to foreman housing; recalled childhood memories of accompanying his father to work; his childhood playing near the box cars and surrounding area; his extended family and interactions with other railroad families; explains the inside of the box car and how his family lived in the box car; explains the difference between accompanying his father to work as a child and working for the railroad company as a teenager; how his grandparents arrived to the United States; talks about his mother and her matrical status in the family; explains the transition living in the box cars to moving to a suburban area and home; how isolated the box cars were to other railroad families and workers; talks about his life after finishing college, marrying his wife, and where he currently is in life.

Subject:

Holding Institution:

Accession Number:

Collection Number:

File Garcia_jesse_part1 & Garcia_jesse_part2 summary:

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Interview with Jesse L. Garcia
Interviewed by: Julissa Gomez Ruvalcaba
Transcribed by: Julissa Gomez Ruvalcaba
[Interview #01: November 11, 2025]
[Video File: Garcia_jesse_part1 & Garcia_jesse_part2]

[00:00:00] **Interviewer:** Okay, so we are going to get started if you're ready. So this is gonna be the opening transcript. This is Julissa Gomez Ruvalcaba, the 2025 - 2026 Oral History fellow from the California State Road Museum interviewing Jesse Garcia. Today is Friday, October 25th, and it is 10:44. This oral history is being conducted in the Big Four conference room that we're in right now in the California State Railroad Museum.

[00:00:31] **Interviewer:** And before we begin this recording, Jesse, Do I have your permission to record this oral history and the permission of State Parks to publish this transcript in part or its entirety? And you can say yes or no.

[00:00:42] **Jesse:** Yes, you do.

[00:00:44] **Interviewer:** Okay, perfect. Okay. Thank you for that.

[00:00:47] **Interviewer:** Thank you so much for being here! [Jesse begins to smile] We've been in conversation for so long and I know that this has been like very much a journey for you just to like even get here,

[00:00:56] **Jesse:** Right.

[00:00:56] **Interviewer:** So, thank you so much just for your time, your space, and your energy. We're just gonna start off with some, some simple questions. First off, can you state your name?

[00:01:07] **Jesse:** Jesse Garcia.

[00:01:09] **Interviewer:** And can you tell me when you were born and where you were born?

[00:01:10] **Jesse:** I was born in Sacramento, California, September 20th, 1945.

[00:01:20] **Interviewer:** And can you tell me who your parents are?

[00:01:21] **Jesse:** [begins to chuckle] Jesus Garcia and Lucy Jimenez Garcia. That was her maiden name.

[00:01:28] **Interviewer:** Were you named after your father?

[00:01:30] **Jesse:** Yes.

[00:01:32] **Interviewer:** Because your name is Jesse and then Jesus…

[00:01:33] **Jesse:** Yes. My birth name is Jesus Guadalupe Garcia, but my name now is Jesse Lupe Garcia. It was changed when I was in the first grade going to a Catholic school. The nuns wanted my name to be Jesse instead of Jesus. I or my parents had no problem with the name change. Lupe is short for Guadalupe. [1]

[00:01:59] **Interviewer:** And do you have any siblings?

[00:02:01] **Jesse:** Pardon me?

[00:02:01] **Interviewer:** Do you have any siblings?

[00:02:04] **Jesse:** Yes.

[00:02:04] **Interviewer:** How many siblings do you have?

[00:02:06] **Jesse:** One daughter and one son.

[00:02:08] **Interviewer:** Oh, I said siblings, but, you have children?

[00:02:11] **Jesse:** Oh yeah, those are the children [smiles].

[00:02:13] **Interviewer:** Okay, that's fine [laughs]. Um, but you also have siblings, don't you?

[00:02:16] **Jesse:** Yes, I have brother and a sister.

[00:02:18] **Interviewer:** Okay. And so are you the oldest out of the…

[1] Narrator added, "I or my parents had no problem with the name change. Lupe is short for Guadalupe" to the transcript.

[00:02:21] **Jesse:** I am the oldest.

[00:02:24] **Interviewer:** In terms of how, like how much older are you?

[00:02:28] **Jesse:** I'm about a year and eight months older than my sister and about six years older than my brother.

[00:02:38] **Interviewer:** Hmm. Okay. So you got, you basically have a very close age range, if anything. So, we're going to go into a little bit about your family.

[00:02:47] **Jesse:** Okay.

[00:02:47] **Interviewer:** So I'm gonna ask you some questions related to your family. Can you tell me a little bit about your parents? Anything that you like to share.

[00:02:55] **Jesse:** I have a few things I'd like to share. They came from Mexico. They were legal green card holders and they met in Redding, California and were married twice. Once in Reno as a civil marriage. And then again two weeks later in Redding at a church wedding. And my parents had, they never argued in front of the kids. Their values were predominantly education because they lacked a lot of formal education. They felt that education was a key to success. They valued treating people with respect, being honest, [voice begins to tremble] and don't get in trouble with the law [smiles and slight laugh].

[00:04:02] **Jesse:** I know, I know my father loved the railroad. He never complained about the weather, the cold, the heat, the snow. He went to work every day. So,

[00:04:18] **Interviewer:** And, can you explain a little bit about how your father got into the railroad? Because I know you said that he had one various occupation but, how did he initially start working in the railroad?

[00:04:32] **Jesse:** All I know from what my parents had told to us is that when my father arrived to this country, he started to work with the railroad. And at one time he was up above Redding as a dynamiter and my mother had told him that it was too dangerous and didn't want him doing that. So then he changed jobs.

[00:05:01] **Jesse:** I can tell you how he got here. One of the stories of why he came.

[00:05:06] **Interviewer:** Yeah, I would love that.

[00:05:08] **Jesse:** Okay. After his mother died he wanted to come to America because he was told that gold, "*You could sweep gold with a broom on the streets*". And he told his father that he wanted to come here and his father said, *"No, it's not true!"*

[00:05:32] **Jesse:** You know, so he came anyway. He was 21 years old. And when he got here he found that it wasn't true. He had to work. So that's how he came [smiles].

[00:05:47] **Interviewer:** What was his first job when he first came to the United States?

[00:05:53] **Jesse:** I don't recall. I don't remember exactly his first job. All I know is that he has always worked for the railroad with one possible exception is in 1943 when he and my mom owned a restaurant on second and K Street in Sacramento.

[00:06:15] **Interviewer:** Did your parents ever talk about that time when they owned the restaurant?

[00:06:19] **Jesse:** No. No, they didn't talk about it. My mom never talked about it, but my aunt did, my mom's sister, Andrea. She told us that they owned a restaurant in Old Town, but it wasn't until we saw the pictures and we did the research and saw the receipts for the payments and the address. That's what we learned more about the restaurant. My aunt did say *they were catering to railroad workers*. And this was in 1943 during the war.

[00:07:00] **Interviewer:** Mmmh. I know you said that your father has always worked in the railroad and then your mother also worked in the railroad as well. What was her occupation when she worked in the railroad?

[00:07:12] **Jesse:** Well after they got married they were living in Dunsmuir during World War II that my mother, we were told this, I think she told us, and my aunt told us that she worked the Switchyards during World War II, and I had always thought that it was Sacramento. I didn't realize that until later after we did the research. But she actually was working the railroad in 1942 in Dunsmuir as an oiler. Also, my mother worked during the war in the

Works Progress Administration (WPA) to help stimulate the U.S economy in Dunsmuir, CA. [2]

[00:07:48] **Interviewer:** And what is that? Is that like placing oil on the railroad yards or something? Or the train tracks?

[00:07:53] **Jesse:** I would just speculate that it was oiling either the tracks or the switches. The switches to the tracks.

[00:08:03] **Interviewer:** Okay. I wanna go back a little bit cause you said that your parents met in Redding.

[00:08:09] **Jesse:** Redding

[00:08:09] **Interviewer:** And in—when we spoke prior off camera and everything like that you said that your parents met when your father was in the military or is that incorrect or when he…

[00:08:20] **Jesse:** No, not, no.

[00:08:21] **Interviewer:** You can go maybe a little bit more into detail. So I was wrong. A little bit more into detail about like, How did your parents meet? If they ever spoke about it.

[00:08:29] **Jesse:** I don't know how they met. I just know that from what we were told from my aunt Andrea and from others, My, uh, mother's sisters that they met up there in Redding. That's all I know.

[00:08:47] **Interviewer:** Do you maybe know like how long they knew each other before they got married or?

[00:08:51] **Jesse:** I, I don't know.

[00:08:53] **Interviewer:** Okay, that's fine. I'm always curious about, you know, the origin story of romance, if anything like that. One thing I did notice as I was going through all the materials that you provided is that your father brought people to the U.S.

[2] Narrator added, "Also, my mother worked during the war in the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to help stimulate the U.S economy in Dunsmuir, CA."

[00:09:12] **Jesse:** He did.

[00:09:12] **Interviewer:** And so can you kind of talk a little bit about that? Who they were? Mm-hmm.

[00:09:20] **Jesse:** I recall that sometimes a relative would come to the house from Mexico and would help them get work and I do recall reading documents that he brought his brother to Sacramento. And he—we have pictures of him—them living in the box cars as a, I'm assuming that as a railroad worker.

[00:09:53] **Jesse:** And he has sponsored certain friends or individuals by staying, by stating that he had the money to sponsor them and that they would be good Americans. So that's how these friends and relatives were approved to come to this country.

[00:10:19] **Interviewer:** And do you remember maybe, so, how old were you when you first started living on the railroads? Like what age were you?

[00:10:28] **Jesse:** I think, I was five years old [begins to smile and laugh]. That's what I recall. I was five years old. I know that for a fact because when I was five years old we were living in Pittsburgh and I had appendicitis attack and I was taken to the hospital and I recall the mask for. It was ether at the time. They put it over your nose. I could still see that mask coming to my nose. And then I had the operation, so I know that while we were in Pittsburgh we were there for a while.

[00:11:09] **Interviewer:** So I guess kind of goes into I guess box car living.

[00:11:13] **Jesse:** Pardon me [leaned in].

[00:11:13] **Interviewer:** This kind of goes into box car living. You—I would say for about seven years or so of your life, starting at the age of five, you lived in a box car with your family. So, can you tell me what is the earliest memory that you have of living in the box car?

[00:11:28] **Jesse:** Well, the earliest memory it was, the very earliest one was when I was five and I was playing underneath the train right by the train box car with, you know, little toy guns and seeing lizards running around. This was in Pittsburgh, but I have pretty clear memory of four box cars that we lived in. Pretty clear memory. Don't have a lot of details, but I have a, a clear memory of the four.

[00:11:57] **Interviewer:** Can you go into detail of the four box cars?

[00:12:01] **Jesse:** Yeah. The.

[00:12:04] **Jesse:** I've already talked about the one in Pittsburgh, but the next box car was in Chico and my father was transferred to work Chico. And they provided a box car for us to stay in while we moved into the house. And the house was probably less than a hundred yards from the tracks and the box car. And while it was getting ready and it was on PG & E property. And at that time, I guess a lot of box cars and PG & E provided, you know, I guess they worked with the railroad hand in hand. So that's where I recall that box car. We were only in it for a short period of time.

[00:12:55] **Jesse:** Then we moved into the section house. Then the second box car was in Oroville Junction—which is Thermalito now. I recall that one because it was another PG & E property that the PG & E plant itself was redone, remodeled to make into a living into a home [gestures with hands from left to right].

[00:13:19] **Jesse:** And we moved from that box car into the house and we were only in that box car less than a month. Then we moved in and then the next box car was. Let's see, no, that was, uh, to West Sacramento. So we went, we ended up going back to Chico. Not to the box car, but back to the house because there was no need to have the box car. After living in Thermalito we moved back to the Chico house on PG&E property, no need for a box car. Subsequently, we moved to the box car in West Sacramento. [3]

[00:13:48] **Jesse:** After my dad was transferred to West Sacramento they set up another box car which is on the—where the Rivercats Stadium is now, in that area right there. The tracks were there, the boxcar was there. We were there for the whole summer of 1958 and I just recall some of the details of the box car was.

[00:14:18] **Jesse:** I remember helping my dad get ice to put in the ice box. At that time, no refrigerator, but it was an ice box. We put a block of ice to keep the food cold and then my mom had a wooden stove that you put wood in it to make food. And it had electricity. They hooked up a cord for electricity. So, I remember taking a cold shower outside once. I don't know how they did it, but the water was outside.

[3] Narrator added, "After living in Thermalito we moved back to the Chico house on PG&E property, no need for a box car. Subsequently, we moved to the box care in West Sacramento." for clarification.

[00:14:49] **Jesse:** I took a shower outside, but that wasn't every day. There was another shower, but I don't recall taking the shower in the other one, I just recall the cold one. And I remember also taking the bus to school. We took the bus every, just about, everywhere we lived, we had to take a bus to school. So, that I recall in West Sacramento—taking the bus to school until my parents purchased a house in West Sacramento when we moved to the house. And then of course we walked to school.

[00:15:26] **Interviewer:** And what led them to finally purchase a home?

[00:15:31] **Jesse:** This is hearsay, but my sister asked my mom *"Why we went to that house?"* It was a two bedroom house and they had three, we had three kids. There were three kids. *"Why a two bedroom?"* They wanted to get us to the house as quickly as possible so that we could go to school. So that's,

[00:15:54] **Interviewer:** So they were like prioritizing your education.

[00:15:56] **Jesse:** Pardon me?

[00:15:57] **Interviewer:** They were prioritizing your education because they wanted—

[00:16:00] **Jesse:** That was the most important thing to them was our education.

[00:16:09] **Interviewer:** And, who else lived in the box car with you?

[00:16:15] **Jesse:** Nobody else, in all of the box cars. [smiles] Nobody else. Just us.

[00:16:21] **Interviewer:** So, it was only your immediate family then?

[00:16:23] **Jesse:** Yeah. Right. [nods head]

[00:16:25] **Interviewer:** So, would you say that was because your father was a foreman?

[00:16:29] **Jesse:** Right.

[00:16:29] **Interviewer:** And so it was,

[00:16:31] **Jesse:** He was sent to different assignments and transferred periodically. So they set him up with a place to stay. And I recall once when we were, where was it? [looks up] I think. I think we were in Chico and he had to take an assignment at East Nicolaus. So he—the family stayed back and he went to East Nicolaus for a week or two for that job and then came back.

[00:17:07] **Interviewer:** And what was his role as a foreman? Like what did he do as a foreman? For the— [Jesse leans in toward Interviewer]

[00:17:11] **Jesse:** As a foreman?

[00:17:12] **Interviewer:** Yeah, for the railroad company.

[00:17:13] **Jesse:** He supervised several individuals. Sometimes it's a— I recall a work crew, at least four or five, but I think the work crew was sometimes larger because I know that when he was in West Sacramento, he had to do a job in Vacaville or Fairfield. And I don't know where the worker—whether he took them with him or the workers were already there.

[00:17:45] **Interviewer:** I know you said that when you got older, that you, prior to you getting older, that you would, you know, go with your father to work and you would see him, you know?

[00:17:54] **Jesse:** Right.

[00:17:55] **Interviewer:** So, can you kind of explain that that experience of seeing, of going with your dad to work as a young kid?

[00:18:00] **Jesse:** That's a little bit of a longer story I have [begins to laugh]. I don't know if you want to hear all that, but.

[00:18:07] **Interviewer:** We can hear it. That's fine.

[00:18:09] **Jesse:** Yeah, I recall. I vividly recall when, between the ages of seven and 12 on one occasion, well, several occasions when we were living in Chico in 1951, I think it was, uh, we were living in Chico and we would walk from the house to the shed where the motor car was. And then they locked it up. In the morning I would walk with my dad, we'd go to the shed he'd open it up. Some workers would show up. He'd tell 'em, you know, put the tools on the motor car that we'd get in the motor car. [motions with his hands the process of putting unlocking the shed and putting the tools in the

motor car] And we would, they'd do the switch thing and then the motorcar would be traveling down the tracks, I don't know, 15/20 miles an hour. I don't know exactly how fast it went, but we headed towards a work site and then this is what I observed him—tell them, you know, they had to replace ties, the plate, the spikes for the tracks. And on several occasions it would take four men, my dad being one of 'em. They'd grab a rail— a actual rail. There's a tool that they use that it's like a, like a clamp that two men would clamp it on one end [demonstrates with both his hands the motion of putting up the rail and clamping it together with a tool]and then my dad and another one would clamp it on the other end and then he would say, *"Con todos los ganas"* so they would lift it up and put it into place, right [laughs].

[00:19:48] **Jesse:** So and then for lunch, you know, we'd have my mom had fixed, you know, burritos or sandwiches or something like that for lunch and we sit down and have lunch and it was a half an hour. And my dad was strict about the half hour. That's what you get when you're working. But every once in a while he'd give him an extra 10 or 15 minutes if it's been a hard day. So one of the things too that I've learned on the traveling down the tracks is my dad taught me to identify the various trees like this was a plum tree. This is a, this is a peach tree. This is an almond tree, a walnut tree. So [laughs] I could, I could go down the road and I could tell you what kind of trees this were. And this is a part I'm not sure you wanna put in there. But he did say it. It is the truth that. Yeah, they have, you have to have toilet facilities out there and sometimes they didn't have 'em. And he said, *"If you don't have paper use a big leaf or a round rock."*

[00:21:00] **Jesse:** So, okay. Then we would head back to where the shed was and put the motorcar back and head back home. And one time, I challenged my dad to race. So we're between the shed and the house. So we picked out a telephone pole that they were gonna race to that telephone pole. So of course I won. Right. I was only like seven years old. I think at that time when we were in Chico. Seven. We were there when I was seven.

[00:21:37] **Jesse:** I was, uh. They wanted me to go to a private school, so they paid for Notre Dame, which is a private Catholic school. And I repeated the first grade twice, you know, the first and first grade I couldn't speak English very well so the nuns held me back. So I did the first grade twice and then the second time when I was in the sixth grade. When we came back from Oroville it's, you know, of course there's no problem and I could speak English [smiles].

[00:22:13] **Interviewer:** You learned the language.

[00:22:14] **Jesse:** I was,

[00:22:15] **Interviewer:** That was actually a question I had. So, was Spanish the predominant language spoken in the home?

[00:22:23] **Jesse:** No, it was, they were. It was some Spanish between my parents, but they wanted us to learn English, so they spoke English. So we learned English at home and at school.

[00:22:40] **Interviewer:** Hmm. And so just so, they just mainly wanted to speak English to you?

[00:22:45] **Jesse:** They wanted us to learn English, but we also learned Spanish.

[00:22:49] **Interviewer:** Mm-hmm. Um, I kind of wanna, I wanna go back a little bit with the box cars. So, you know, your family was living in the box cars. Were there other families who lived in box cars as well, or?

[00:23:04] **Jesse:** No. Orville Junction, Chico, and West Sacramento, it was only one box car and it was only us. And it wasn't until while we looked at some of the pictures that my sister saved. That in Pittsburgh, there were three and four box cars living quarters lined up together. You know, so, and then I think there were other families that were in those box cars.

[00:23:35] **Interviewer:** Did you ever interact with other families or play with the kids or?

[00:23:41] **Jesse:** No, not really. No. No, I don't recall that.

[00:23:45] **Interviewer:** So, as a child who were the people that you played with then?

[00:23:50] **Jesse:** Because of us moving from, um, a house to house to house and box car to box car, we didn't really have a lot of friends that we brought home from school because we came from, we were on the bus, came home and you just find things to do.

[00:24:14] **Interviewer:** And, what were some of the things that you would do during your time living, I guess, like on the road? On the railroads?

[00:24:20] **Jesse:** Yeah, when we were in Oroville Junction there was an olive orchard right across the tracks and then there was cow pastures all around us. And I would have a BB gun go into the olive orchards when my cousin came from Sacramento we would go with our BB guns and shoot things up with the BB guns. But, also I made little traps little [voice slightly breaks and coughs into hand] boxes where he put a little stick on it with a string to try to catch a pheasant. I never caught one, but it was fun trying right. Put them little corn. Go way, way, long way, long ways away [demonstrates how he placed the box and moves left hand across away from body].

[00:25:02] **Jesse:** We had chickens that were running around. We fed the chickens, made sling shots out of oh, I don't know what those kind of trees are. I think they're Crepe Myrtle that the real nice smooth wood that you make a little V out of it and get a tire and you make a swing shot out of it.

[00:25:20] **Jesse:** And those were coloring books. Uh, just different things that, play outside with. There was in Oroville, there was a, like a little pond area that we would make a raft and try to go on the raft and the water. I mean, it just we didn't have people that come over, you know, no friends, but you have to find things to do.

[00:25:48] **Interviewer:** I know in the photo that you shared that [Jesse leans in toward Interviewer] the, there were, there were people who were I guess your immediate family and also then your father brought other people from Mexico to the U.S. So I guess my question is, did you guys like hang out with like the, with the aunts and the uncles then? Like, would they, did they live like nearby?

[00:26:12] **Jesse:** Because we traveled from location to location. Most of my, the family was my mother's side and she had other sisters and they lived in Sacramento so the visitors were from Sacramento. My aunt and uncle that had kids that were our age, they would come during the summer and visit or one of the cousins would stay over for the summer. Or for a month or so, but yeah.

[00:26:44] **Interviewer:** So it was more so that they had one location [Jesse leans in toward Interviewer] in Sacramento like working for the railroad, but...

[00:26:49] **Jesse:** No, no, no, no. My mother's sisters and their kids lived in various houses in Sacramento, and they came periodically to Oroville or to Chico to visit.

[00:27:04] **Interviewer:** But it wasn't, it wasn't how you guys were always moving because of work. It was more so they lived in various houses 'cause of whatever reasons. But it wasn't, it wasn't connected to the railroad is what I'm trying to say.

[00:27:15] **Jesse:** Who, who was that?

[00:27:16] **Interviewer:** Um, So you, your family would move from box car, box car based on where your father was stationed?

[00:27:23] **Jesse:** Yeah.

[00:27:24] **Interviewer:** Did your aunts and uncles, were they also, did they also move as well or they were...

[00:27:29] **Jesse:** No

[00:27:29] **Interviewer:** They stayed at one place?

[00:27:30] **Jesse:** No. No, they had their own career. Their own careers. And they lived in Sacramento and

[00:27:34] **Interviewer:** Not related to the railroad?

[00:27:35] **Jesse:** No, not, not associated with the railroad. I have an uncle that worked the railroad here in Sacramento, but there was no connection.

[00:27:48] **Interviewer:** Oh, okay. With some of the photos I saw that there were plants and there was trees and everything like that. Did you guys have like a garden at all in the box car that you lived in? Or like, did any plants, any type of decorations were put up?

[00:28:06] **Jesse:** Really? No. No plant. No, because it wasn't our property, you know, we didn't have plants and decorations and things like that. It wasn't, it, we, we didn't do that.

[00:28:19] **Interviewer:** Was there anything that maybe your parents tried to add into the box cars or into the, the housing to make it a bit more homey? Was there anything that they added to the walls?

[00:28:28] **Jesse:** No. Only, only the inside. Mm-hmm. Not, not outside.

[00:28:32] **Interviewer:** What would they add inside of the box car?

[00:28:34] **Jesse:** No, not nothing to my knowledge.

[00:28:38] **Interviewer:** It was just a plain box cart inside.

[00:28:41] **Jesse:** Yeah. No. Well, it had. You know, I had the, the stove, the living, you know, the ice boxes and stuff like that. Electricity, but, sleeping. I don't remember what the sleeping arrangement was. I just don't remember in all of the box cars. I even don't even remember the section house in Chico in Orville—I do remember the layout of the kitchen, family room, and bedrooms in Thermalito.[4]

[00:29:08] **Jesse:** I don't. There's only a slight remembrance [makes small gesture with hand] in Oroville of where the bedroom was. But other than that, I don't remember all the—my brother and sister. They might maybe, maybe they, key in on other things growing up, but I don't recall that much.

[00:29:27] **Interviewer:** Mmmh. Do you remember maybe what were some foods that you would eat every day? What was like, you know, like the cooking?

[00:29:38] **Jesse:** Yeah. Beans and rice were pretty stable [laughs]. Tortillas were pretty stable [laughs]. And then, we had a lot of, we had canned goods because when, when my dad would come home, it happen, I was with him sometimes. He'd come home off of the, the motor car. The farmers did not have a problem with him picking tomatoes, peaches. We brought home, you know, those 50 gallon, 50 gallon drums full of peaches, full of pears, full of, not so much the tomatoes, but my mom would get to canning. So, there was a lot of canning going on.

[00:30:22] **Interviewer:** Mmh. One thing that you said is that you went to a Catholic school.

[00:30:28] **Jesse:** Yeah.

[00:30:28] **Interviewer:** For what amount of years that you did, Did your family also go to church as well?

[4] Narrator added, "I do remember the layout of the kitchen, family room, and bedrooms in Thermalito." for clarification.

[00:30:35] **Jesse:** They went to church, but I don't recall going with them to church, so I, I do recall going. In West Sacramento at the church there, going with them to church. I recall going with them to the cathedral in Sacramento to church there. That's where I was baptized too so. There, there were some occasions where I do remember, and our Lady of Guadalupe in Southside Park, I recall going to church with them there. So it's just like just little moments or different snapshots of going to church.

[00:31:24] **Interviewer:** And you said how you started going to school while you're living in the box car. Can you kind of explain the process of going to school? So you had to take the bus, but what was the process just to get to the school?

[00:31:41] **Jesse:** I'm not sure if I can answer what the process was. But I do recall in Oroville where we were living between the box car and the PG & E house that the bus would come. We'd have to walk a little ways cause it was another family down the road [coughs]. And we would, we would meet at this stop and the bus would pick us up and we'd go to school[5]. I went to Biggs Elementary there for the, I think third, fourth, and fifth grade [makes a back and forth motion with his pointer finger], we were on the bus. And then in Chico, we were on the bus. We had to walk to walk a little ways to get to the, the bus stop, but the process I don't know. I just know we got on the bus to go to school.

[00:32:31] **Interviewer:** And you didn't do anything like post-school, you would just take the bus back?

[00:32:34] **Jesse:** Post-school? I did in Chico a little bit. Yeah, I got my first job there and when I was in the, I think the sixth grade, I was selling the Chico Bee. You grab a bunch of papers and you walk the street, you hit the businesses, you're at the barber shops, you know you're carrying The Bee and you're selling 'em for 10 cents. 10 cents a Bee. And then at the end of the day, when I made 50 cents, I felt, [smiles] I felt good.

[00:33:10] **Interviewer:** I'm thinking of, how many schools did you attend?

[00:33:15] **Jesse:** How many schools?

[00:33:15] **Interviewer:** Yeah, during your time living in the boxcars or in the various areas?

[5] Narrator corrected "school" to "church" in the transcript.

[00:33:20] **Jesse:** Notre Dame, Biggs Elementary, back to Notre Dame and then West Stickers and West Sacramento. Those are schools while I was 13 and younger.

[00:33:37] **Interviewer:** Okay.

[00:33:38] **Jesse:** So, there were three schools, three buses.

[00:33:44] **Interviewer:** And you said how you moved from one box car to the next because of where your father would be stationed…

[00:33:50] **Jesse:** Was transferred, right.

[00:33:51] **Interviewer:** Transferred to not stationed. Were there any things that your parents would always bring with them from one box card to the next, like a—

[00:33:58] **Jesse:** I, that, I don't remember?

[00:34:00] **Interviewer:** Or maybe, were there any things that you would bring with you? That you said, I need to bring this with me.

[00:34:05] **Jesse:** I don't remember any. I don't remember that, no. But I do recall once or asking a couple questions like that when we were in when we were in a box car in Orville Junction. And we moved into the house. They had other train cars that were there parked right in front of the house, and one of the box cars was filled with plates. It was an open air box car. [6]

[00:34:29] **Jesse:** You know the plates that you put underneath the rail, then they hammer it with nail. There was like thousands of plates. So my dad had me get inside the box car and throw a bunch of 'em out. So I threw 'em all out. They were gonna use them. I was probably about 10 years old or so, I don't know. And he was using him to go to work the next week.

[00:34:59] **Interviewer:** I wanna transition a little bit. I wanna, I'm gonna transition a little bit in terms of your family. You talked a little bit about your father. You said that *he was*, you know*, a hardworking man. He never complained.* What else can you tell me about your father?

[6] Narrator added, ". It was an open air box car."

[00:35:15] **Jesse:** One of the things that he always felt was that in order to get something or accomplish something, that you had to sacrifice something. So I think that he sacrificed going to work to make sure that we got to school and he always wanted me to be honest and stay out of trouble. So, they allowed me a lot of flexibility to kind of come and go, as you know, not as I wish, but pretty much. As long as I stayed out of trouble.

[00:35:58] **Interviewer:** And, you never got into any trouble based on what they knew?

[00:36:02] **Jesse:** Maybe one time, maybe one time. [begins to laugh] One time we were in West Sacramento and I stole a candy bar at a store and they caught me, right? [laughing as he tells the story] So they, uh, instead of calling the police they took me home and both my parents were upset. I never stole again [laughs and takes a breath]. Whoo. Man.

[00:36:36] **Interviewer:** You probably were scared.

[00:36:37] **Jesse:** Huh?

[00:36:38] **Interviewer:** You were maybe scared a little bit at that moment.

[00:36:40] **Jesse:** Well, I didn't want to disappoint my parents [voice trembles when speaking].

[00:36:43] **Interviewer:** Mm-hmm.

[00:36:44] **Jesse:** That's what it was.

[00:36:52] **Interviewer:** I know you spoke a little bit before how you worked at the railroad company with your father,

[00:36:55] **Jesse:** Right.

[00:36:57] **Interviewer:** Can you, can you talk about the difference in experience between, you know, basically shadowing them, shadowing him as a child to then working?

[00:37:10] **Jesse:** But what, could you repeat that?

[00:37:12] **Interviewer:** Yeah, can you, so you, can you explain the difference between when you were shadowing your father? So, you were just kind of trailing along with him—

[00:37:21] **Jesse:** Uh huh

[00:37:21] **Interviewer:** To then officially working. Did you work alongside your father at the railroad company?

[00:37:25] **Jesse:** Yeah. When I was, when I was 17, um, parents wanted me to go to work with my dad, so they signed a waiver with the railroad. To be able to work 'cause I wasn't 18, so they had to sign a waiver of liability. Then I went to work for the summer when I was 17 and I did the work. I with the men and, you know, I had to do everything they did. And I saved the money and I used that money to go to Bishop Armstrong my last year of high school.

[00:38:04] **Interviewer:** And, what were what did you do exactly?

[00:38:06] **Jesse:** Just, everything. Got take the ties out, um, uh, uh, pounding some of the spikes that weren't, you know, maybe sticking out a little bit. And then take ties out. Put a new one in. Put the plate in there, hammer 'em down. [demonstrates with his hand how he took the ties out and hammered the rails in] That's pretty much what I did.

[00:38:31] **Interviewer:** I know you said that you have two siblings?

[00:38:33] **Jesse:** Pardon? You have pardon?

[00:38:34] **Interviewer:** You have two siblings, a brother and a sister. Did they also work for the railroad at all?

[00:38:39] **Jesse:** No.

[00:38:40] **Interviewer:** Just you.

[00:38:41] **Jesse:** Just me.

[00:38:42] **Interviewer:** What do you think was the reason that they didn't wanna work for the railroad, but you wanted to for a little bit?

[00:38:48] **Jesse:** It was. No, it was. See I was 17. My sister wasn't gonna work, the railroad, and my brother was like 10. And then my dad died in 64, so he wasn't old enough, so he couldn't go.

[00:39:04] **Interviewer:** Did he, did your little brother ever join your father for work like you did when you were younger?

[00:39:13] **Jesse:** I, I don't know—because I left home at age 20. So, and he was like what? 13 or 14, something like that. So after I left home, I have no idea.

[00:39:32] **Interviewer:** Oh, you have a big age gap.

[00:39:35] **Jesse:** Yeah. It was a 6, 6, 7 years—

[00:39:38] **Interviewer:** Age gap.

[00:39:38] **Jesse:** Difference. Gap.

[00:39:39] **Interviewer:** Was your brother, was he born during the time when you guys lived in box cars?

[00:39:44] **Jesse:** Yeah, pretty much. Uh, when we were in Chico in, uh, 1951. We were in that little box car, we went to the house and I remember living in that section house and my mom had to go to the hospital 'cause my mother would, my brother was being born, so that I do remember that.

[00:40:07] **Interviewer:** Oh, so they, so she had a hospital birth then…

[00:40:10] **Jesse:** Huh?

[00:40:11] **Interviewer:** He went to the hospital to give birth to your,

[00:40:13] **Jesse:** My mom did.

[00:40:14] **Interviewer:** Okay.

[00:40:14] **Jesse:** Yeah.

[00:40:15] **Interviewer:** And did your father go with her or was it,

[00:40:18] **Jesse:** I think so.

[00:40:19] **Interviewer:** Yeah. And then who, who cared for you?

[00:40:22] **Jesse:** I have no idea. I don't know.

[00:40:26] **Interviewer:** Since we're on the topic,

[00:40:27] **Jesse:** I might, I think I might have gone, I think, I'm trying, trying to think. I think they took me, yeah, I think so.

[00:40:35] **Interviewer:** Since we're on the topic of your mother, can you tell me a little bit about her? Can you describe your mom? Like, you know, "Who is she?"

[00:40:44] **Jesse:** Oh boy. That. [covers face with hand and begins to tear up] Okay. That's a hard one. Can we take a break? [whispers and makes a 'cut' motion with his hand]

[00:40:54] **Interviewer:** You wanna take a break? We can take a break. That's fine.

{Took 15 minute break}

[00:00:00] **Jesse:** I'm trying to, I just think some other things of my mom that are gonna be interesting. You might hear these again though.

[00:00:06] **Interviewer:** It's okay.

[00:00:07] **Interviewer:** So, we were talking a little bit a how your father came to the U.S., how your mom came to the U.S. And from what you told me before your mother came to the U.S. from through her grandfather, I mean, sorry, not through her grandfather, her father. Can you tell me a little bit about your grandfather? [Jesse rubs his eye and slightly covers his mouth then begins speaking]

[00:00:28] **Jesse:** Okay. My grandfather came first and then grandmother with my mother, but when my grandfather got here up in Redding working for the Union Pacific Railroad. And they were living right by Lake Shasta at the bottom where the Sacramento River is [moves arm horizontally across body demonstrating placement].And we were told that he drowned in the

river. He was in a [coughs] fishing boat and somehow fell overboard and he drowned. So then now of course, he's buried in the cemetery in Redding.

[00:01:13] **Interviewer:** Oooh,

[00:01:13] **Jesse:** That's all I know about my grandfather. My grandmother never really talked about him much and my parents didn't. My mom didn't really say that much, but they didn't share a lot of personal information. But, that's what I know.

[00:01:33] **Interviewer:** So, your parents never really talked about their life in Mexico then?

[00:01:38] **Jesse:** No, not really.

[00:01:41] **Interviewer:** And did you guys ever visit Mexico?

[00:01:45] **Jesse:** Who do you mean by you guys?

[00:01:47] **Interviewer:** Your family, your brother, your sister. Did you guys ever go visit Mexico?

[00:01:53] **Jesse:** I, my sister went with my grandmother to Mexico somewhere in Chihuahua called, I think it, I think it's called Casa Grandes.

[00:02:03] **Jesse:** So, I [coughs] don't know those details. My sister knows, of course, 'cause she's the one that went, but I never went to Mexico. And, and, my, I believe that my dad supposedly he was never gonna return because he was too embarrassed. His dad was right. There was no gold in the streets. [7]So the only time he went back was when he was told he was dying. But none of, I never returned, I never went to Mexico when they were alive, my parents were alive.

[00:02:42] **Interviewer:** Hmm. Yeah 'cause sometimes a lot of families there go back and forth...

[00:02:47] **Jesse:** Right.

[7] Narrator corrected the telling of the story.

[00:02:48] **Interviewer:** In terms of visiting, but it was more so a lot of your father's family came to stay in the U.S. and then your, your...

[00:02:59] **Jesse:** Oh, not my [shakes head] father's family did not come to the U.S.

[00:03:02] **Interviewer:** None of them came?

[00:03:02] **Jesse:** He, he brought, well, no, his brother Wenceslao, his brother came and he worked with him in Pittsburgh. And at one time I saw some document that his half-sister, Pluma came to the U.S. in Sacramento, I believe. And then where she ended up, I don't know. And his brother I think returned back to Mexico, but I don't have a lot of details.

[00:03:30] **Interviewer:** Hmm. And, what about your mother's side of the family? Did any of her family come to the U.S. at all?

[00:03:38] **Jesse:** No, just her. I think we have cousins in Los Angeles that when, when I was home, I think my mother may have visited them, but I don't really know them.

[00:03:54] **Interviewer:** More your immediate family. We're gonna transition a little bit back to your mom.

[00:04:00] **Jesse:** Okay.

[00:04:01] **Interviewer:** And I asked you, um, previously, can you tell me anything about your mother?

[00:04:07] **Jesse:** Yeah.

[00:04:07] **Interviewer:** Anything that you would like, describing her.

[00:04:10] **Jesse:** Yes. She valued education. She loved her kids. She would do anything for her kids. Right. And that's, I recall, this is what I was told that when my dad was working and he'd get his paycheck, his, get his paychecks, my mom always signed his paychecks at the bank and whatnot. And one day my dad got a check and he went to the bank to cash the check and they said, "*Mr. Garcia, this isn't your signature."* [beings to smile] So, I don't know how he cashed the check. So, anyway, [laughs] my mom took care of a lot of his paperwork. You know, when as a foreman you had to turn in a report. Like, I think it was every weekend on Saturdays my mom would do all the

numbers for him and write out certain things for him. And so she would help him do his railroad paperwork. When we were living in West Sacramento my dad would have me help on a Saturday with his railroad paperwork. [8]

[00:05:24] **Interviewer:** Would you say that your mother was like the matriarch of the family?

[00:05:28] **Jesse:** Right. Right, right. [slight nodding] She run, she ran everything [smiles]. The. Mm-hmm [nods].

[00:05:36] **Interviewer:** Okay. Did you, I'm just curious about the dynamic. Did you more so listen to maybe your mother's word over your father's word? Was it, was her word essentially law or would it maybe equal about it?...

[00:05:48] **Jesse:** Pretty much. My mom ran things.

[00:05:51] **Interviewer:** She ran things.

[00:05:52] **Jesse:** Right. Yeah, my dad, he was a kind of a quiet, low key guy, you know, but unless he's at work. But yeah, he'd come home and she took care of everything, cleaning, cooking and that, that was her [nodding head]. I mean, she supported her family. She always wanted to make sure. She always harped on education. That was an important, important aspect for, for them to work on making sure that we were in school.

[00:06:29] **Interviewer:** And why do you think that was so important for them that they really wanted you to get, that was—

[00:06:33] **Jesse:** Important for them.

[00:06:35] **Interviewer:** But why, why do you think it was so important for them that they wanted you to get like a good education?

[00:06:40] **Jesse:** Because they knew. They didn't have a lot of formal education and they learned on their own. They learned English very well. They didn't have the normal, an accent that some people have when they come to this country. With their, their, their, the language, they didn't have that accent. So they could flip back and forth between English and Spanish without any problem whatsoever.

[8] The narrator added, "When we were living in West Sacramento my dad would have me help on a Saturday with his railroad paperwork."

[00:07:08] **Interviewer:** This is just a question I forgot to ask, but did you, Did your family have any pets at all?

[00:07:14] **Jesse:** Pets? Yeah. Yeah, we had dogs, yeah. Periodically, you know. I think almost everywhere we were at, we had, we had a dog or dogs. And when we got to West Sacramento to the house, I don't remember a dog when we got to the house in West Sacramento, but we always have a, we usually had a dog.

[00:07:44] **Interviewer:** What type of dogs were they? Were they like big dogs?

[00:07:47] **Jesse:** No small dogs. Little runts.

[00:07:50] **Interviewer:** So I jumbled up, sorry.

[00:07:57] **Jesse:** Pardon?

[00:07:57] **Interviewer:** I said, I jumbled up something that you told me before about how you met, how your parents met, which wasn't through the military, but you met your wife when you were in the military.

[00:08:09] **Jesse:** Right.

[00:08:09] **Interviewer:** So I kind of wanna jump forward to the present and ask you the question of, How do you think living in the box car affect, affected your life?

[00:08:25]

[00:08:25] **Jesse:** Well, leaving the box cars became a more stable environment, you know, where you could have friends. You had neighbors. You had a support system. You had your school connections. You had your own, you had a stable place to sleep. You could shower. You could do all the normal things. You know, you buy a, I had a bike, you know, you go around the neighborhood go down the street and play chess with the neighbor kid, you know that. So, of course it was kind of a positive, it was a very positive transition. But, growing up we always felt like the love of the family. So, we never felt like we were poor, you know. We never felt like we needed anything. We, I think we grew up to be fine individuals. So a testament to the parents. [smiles]

[00:09:39] **Interviewer:** And in terms, I guess of, of rank was it, was being a foreman pretty high in status for the railroad company?

[00:09:50] **Jesse:** Pardon me?

[00:09:51] **Interviewer:** Was being a foreman, was that pretty high in status for...

[00:09:55] **Jesse:** Uh, uh,

[00:09:56] **Interviewer:** Or, what would you say in terms of tier? 'Cause you mentioned...

[00:09:58] **Jesse:** I don't

[00:09:58] **Interviewer:** You know...

[00:09:59] **Jesse:** I think, I looked at it as maybe kind of a little bit of a high status, but in, in the large picture it wasn't. But he had a boss like Mr. Kelly that we remember for many years. And Mr. Kelly, I think he would do anything for my dad. So he gave him the assignments, you know, and my dad reported to him. And my dad was able to supervise a work crew, you know, through just through just talking to them. I never saw him yelling at a worker. He always treated them with respect. So, he was able to command and supervise and get a, a project done. So I never heard from anywhere any, comments about, you know, "*The job wasn't done*" or "*This was incomplete*" or, you know, I never heard any of that stuff. You know, sometimes you might hear something. I went with him many times and I never heard him raise his voice at anybody, but he got the job done. So,

[00:11:30] **Interviewer:** There was one thing that I saw that was provided which that he was part of a union. [Jesse leans in toward the Interviewer]

[00:11:36] **Jesse:** Oh, yeah, yeah. Mm-hmm. Yeah, I don't know that much about it, but yes, he was, he, he was part of a union and, I think my sister and brother probably know a few more of the details of what his union experience was. I, I could only speak to the document that I read, but, I haven't, I don't have any firsthand knowledge.

[00:12:03] **Interviewer:** Right, because you, because they never talked, I guess your father never really talked about work outside of work then? He, when he was in the home [Jesse shakes his head back and forth no], he

would just be interacting with like his children? [Jesse nods his head up and down yes]

[00:12:13] **Jesse:** Right. No, not really. He didn't talk about work. He never complained about work. Never, you know anything I ever heard was always positive, going to work. Yeah.

[00:12:30] **Interviewer:** Is there anything else you want to add that maybe I missed in terms of asking you questions related to your time as a child living in the box cars, living on the railroads?

[00:12:47] **Jesse:** Um, I'd have to think about that a second.

[00:12:52] **Interviewer:** Okay.

[00:12:52] **Jesse:** Check my notes. [gestures toward notes on a chair beside him]

[00:12:54] **Interviewer:** You can check your notes if you want to. It's okay.

[00:12:56] **Jesse:** Let's see if I see if I there's anything that. [leans toward his notes and begins to review them]

{16 sec pause as Jesse reviews his notes}

[00:13:25] **Jesse:** No, well, I think I covered everything that I wrote down for notes. [places his notes back on the chair beside him]

[00:13:32] **Interviewer:** There is one thing that I do want to. Go back into what I meant. I think it's so curious 'cause in the photos that you provided, there were other people in the photos. So, what sort, what sort of community was there when you were living in the box cars? Can you describe like the community?

[00:13:54] **Jesse:** There wasn't any community. No community. No, just box car to section house. No. [shakes his head back and forth no]

[00:14:07] **Interviewer:** When there, when there were, like, there was no like gathering of any sort or like parties at all?

[00:14:13] **Jesse:** No. No. Not at all. No. [shakes his head back and forth no] In fact, even in the section house, the only time that I ever recall anybody

coming over were relatives in Oroville Junction. But, but I recall when we were living in Oroville Junction, going to Gridley, visiting some of their friends. But, we also had friends in Chico right by not too far from Notre Dame. We had the, really good friends that my parents had and we visited them, [coughs] but we didn't have anybody come over. It's, it's not because we didn't want 'em over, [smies] it's just because of where the section houses were located.

[00:15:11] **Interviewer:** And where were they located exactly 'cause...

[00:15:13] **Jesse:** The one in Oroville Junction is way out in the boondocks and I think it's, I think it's underwater now with the, the reservoir in Oroville. And then the one on in Chico was in an area where there were cement pipes behind the house. Um, and it was in an area where it was a PG&E property, so you had to go down a little dirt road to get to it. But I don't recall having relatives come. [coughs] The one in West Sacramento, the box car was. Um, it's where Rivercat Stadium is now, and it was by the track. There was a lumber yard there then there was some either rice buildings or they did rice, but there was nothing around. [shakes head] I mean, we, it's kind of out, out nowhere. It's like you, you don't have, we don't have the facilities where somebody could come and visit.

[00:16:22] **Interviewer:** And the, the box cars that you guys lived in, was that connected to the train?

[00:16:28] **Jesse:** No. They set it stationary, disconnected it from the train. It was stationary. Stationary.

[00:16:36] **Interviewer:** Okay. So the, so then you lived in the box car and then your father would then go to like, I guess his work site.

[00:16:43] **Jesse:** He'd go to work. [nods his head]

[00:16:44] **Interviewer:** And you would come back, but, it was never attached to the train?

[00:16:46] **Jesse:** No. [shakes his head back and forth no] No. They, the train brought the box car. Left it there. And then, uh, after we moved, I remember in Oroville Junction after we moved into the house, they took the, they took the, they took it away and they put other, other box cars and trains

and whatnot along, along the front of the house. I believe they were empty box cars. [9]

[00:17:11] **Interviewer:** Interesting. I keep going back and forth in terms of past and present, but what, what can you tell me about yourself now? We've been focusing a lot about your past. Like who is, Who is Jesse Garcia? Who, who is this man in front of the camera?

[00:17:28] **Jesse:** Oh boy. Oh boy. [smiles and laughs] I don't know. [pauses] I, I felt like. Um, I had a lot of opportunities, uh, [voice wavers] fortunate to not miss parts of my education 'cause we were always getting to school somehow or another. So, I had the complete education and I was able to eventually get a bachelor's degree and a master's degree. [moves his hands in a forward direction has he speaks] And. The sad part of growing up was after my father died a couple months later, I got drafted, you know, into, they had, they had the, the draft where a lotto where they draw numbers and then your number gets called and you're going to Vietnam, right.

[00:18:34] **Jesse:** So my uncle told me, "*Hey*". He was in the Navy. "*You join the navy*". You know, they were sending a hundred thousand troops to Vietnam and so I went and joined the Navy for four years, traveled around. It, it, it, it broke my mom's heart because, uh, she just lost her husband and then I had to go in the military. [voices begins to waver and tremble] So. [shurgs] She saved all of the letters that I wrote home saved them all. [voices caughts] I put 'em in a binder. [moves his hands and demonstrates someone places items into a binder]

[00:19:21] **Jesse:** Anyway, [slight pause] that's me [laughs and smiles]. Then I worked for that I, then I worked, I went to work for the Department of Youth Authority for like retired from them and that's pretty much it. I met my wife and when I was in the navy. Got married.

[00:19:41] **Interviewer:** Was he, she was, met her when you were in the Navy. What was she doing? What was like—how did you—

[00:19:46] **Jesse:** Pardon?

[00:19:46] **Interviewer: meet her?** Like what did, like what is the origin story of how you met her in the Navy? Like she was—

[9] The interviewed asked the Narrator what the box cars were used for. He added, "I believe they were empty box cars".

[00:19:52] **Jesse:** Well, I was, I was stationed at NAS Miramar in San Diego and she was working at the Naval Hospital. I met her when she was at the YWCA. [gestures toward his wife who is behind the camera]

{Jesse's wife laughs in background}

[00:20:08] **Interviewer:** Did you introduce yourself first, or? [laughs out loud]

[00:20:11] **Jesse:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. [laughing] I would say that, yeah. Then we went out a few times, you know, eventually got married. Yeah.

[00:20:24] **Interviewer:** Do you have any children? You, met your, I met your grandchild.

[00:20:29] **Jesse:** Yeah. Julia. Yeah. The, the other, the other grandson. I have two other grandsons. One's in the army now. He joined the army. And, my son's, my son's son. And then Michael. Riley, which is Julia's brother he, he was kind of instrumental in having us go through Ancestry and talked us in to going to La Piedad, Michoacan where my dad was born. So, we went there about two years ago, you know, and he pushed us then going through the family thing so that was all helpful.

[00:21:13] **Interviewer:** Is there anything else that you want to share whatsoever related to your life in box cars, your current life or anything last, last thoughts before we end?

[00:21:27] **Jesse:** From 1969 to 1988—this is the date my mother died--Sindia, my wife developed a mother daughter relationship with my mother. The relationship was so strong, Sindia has decorated my mom and dad's graves for the last 30 years to this day. Sindia talks about my mom often. I remember numerous days after I had gone to bed, both Sindia and my mom stayed up at night talking. [10]No, other than, I thank the railroad museum for everything they've done. [smiles]

[00:21:39] **Interviewer:** Cool. Thank you so much.

[00:21:40] **Jesse:** Yeah.

[10] The narrator added, "From 1969 to 1988, when my mother died Sindia, my wife developed a mother daughter relationship with my mother. The relationship was so strong Sindia has decorated my mom and dad's graves for the last 30 years to this day. Sindia talks about my mom often. I remember numerous days after I had gone to bed, both Sindia and my mom stayed up at night talking."

[00:21:41] **Interviewer:** That's it. We did it. [laughs]